

Long Term/Cross-Cultural Missions

Message Notes:

- Missions, in Latin, means 'to send'. In Greek, it means 'one who's been sent out'.
- Long term missions have similar issues to short term but are more in-depth. In other words, the newness and the culture shock wear off. Everything new and exciting sometimes becomes mundane, even dislikable or scary at times. You have to learn what you're facing when you choose to do long-term missions. You should know about culture shock, as well as what re-entry into your own society after will be like. You need endurance, perseverance, and a calling.
- Long term missionaries may be regarded differently depending on where you end up. In Zambia, they were regarded as experts on everything. Every missionary was expected to have a staff, like housekeepers and security guards, since you have the money to give people employment. Because of this, it is easy at times to become prideful. Since you are regarded as 'alpha people', those who are in a place of authority, you need to remind yourself that you are there as a servant.
- There have been major changes in long-term missions. Zambia went from primarily rural missions to urban. This resulted in massive growth, as locals who were saved went out themselves into the rural areas and taught others.
- Long term missions are also shorter than they used to be (only usually two to four years). It is harder to get into nations. You need skills to offer. In spite of this, the number one priority still needs to be to share the gospel.
- Your own faith must be solid, you must be strong with the Holy Spirit, and you need love for those you are going to serve and a genuine interest in the people. This can be shown to those people through things such as eating their food, even if it's not what you're used to, learning the language, learning the customs, and learning the proverbs of the nation. It helps cement the fact that you actually care, and that you're invested in them.